



WFO Jackson Emergency Response



Dan Byrd
WFO Jackson, MS



- **What were we thinking at JAN...**
- **Wanted to better serve our customers...**
- **How could we do that?**
- **How about taking the weather to them!!**
- **So we looked at....**





Incident Meteorologists

- Provide on-site weather forecasts and briefings for national Incidents
- Specially trained to work closely with customers
- Experienced with Incident Command System
- Dispatched nationally to support USFS, FEMA, Coast Guard etc.
- Cost a lot
- Not new





Local On-site Support

- Tailored after the IMET.
- New service for when public safety is at risk for a significant length of time.
- NWS Jackson can send a meteorologist to the location to support an operation.
- This service is **free** to the county that requests the support.



So What!

- What types of incidents could we support?
- There are Plenty!!





Types of Incidents that might require On-site support

- **Significant Hazmat or Terrorist activity**
- **Wind information important for evacuations**



Obviously an IMET would be called for this large of a support...but an IRMET Could be used if it was smaller in scale.



Types of Incidents that might require On-site support

- **Train Derailments**
- **May involve chemicals and evacuations**
- **Wind and rain information important**





Types of Incidents that might require On-site support

- **Bridge Collapses**
- **Are there storms expected?**
- **River Levels**
- **Hypothermia?**





Types of Incidents that might require On-site support – Tornado recovery



www.kansas.com
Sunday Eagle
STORMS ■ HIGH 79 ■ LOW 67 ■ DETAILS, 8B
MAY 6, 2007
FINAL EDITION ■ \$1.50

■ Detailed map of area, 11A ■ Photo page, 4A; plus more photos at Kansas.com ■ How to help, 8A

DEVASTATED

Tornadoes tear through region, leveling Greensburg and leaving nine people dead



More photos of Greensburg: The town is wiped out after tornadoes blew across western Kansas on Friday night, leaving a wide swath of destruction. Another line of thunderstorms Saturday spawned more tornadoes.

Greensburg residents find a city gone, a future unknown

BY ROY WENZ, TIM POTTER, BRENT WISTROM, P.J. CHILKOTSKY AND MURIEL LAVIGNA
The Wichita Eagle

GREENSBURG — This sun-baked High Plains town no longer has a grade school, a high school, a City Hall, a hospital, a water tower, a fire station, a business district or a main street.

It has people, but all 1,400 of them live elsewhere today. The homes they kept, the items where they were born, where they grew old together, now lie in millions of pieces, some of them as small as matchsticks. Tatters and shards of Greensburg flew for miles across the shrapnel and sage and yucca outside town on Friday night. Their branches now hold the shreds of housing insulation, pieces of tin, pieces of twisted roofing, crumpled family photographs, torn documents, and bits and pieces of belongings.

The Kiowa County courthouse still stands. The grain elevator still stands. The water tower, as a highway patrol trooper said, "is not just down — it is completely destroyed."

"This is so surreal," city administrator Sueve Lewitt said. "I don't know what to expect tomorrow. I'm worried about two weeks from tomorrow."

Please see GREENSBURG, Page 10A



MACKSVILLE: Joyce Stafford hugs Jarrod Black after surviving a tornado 7 miles south of Macksville. Black and his parents, Ed and Debbie Parks, barely made it to their basement before the tornado hit.

INSIDE: MAPS, PHOTOS, STORIES OF SURVIVAL

- Area is menaced by tornadoes a second night
- Wichitans mourning lost pets and owners
- Legislator helps dig neighbors out of rubble
- Details of the storm's toll
- Amid misery, residents vow 'life will go on.'

.com PHOTO GALLERIES AND VIDEO AT KANSAS.COM

Survivors tell of narrow escapes, unlikely discoveries

BY TIM POTTER
The Wichita Eagle

GREENSBURG — As the faint sun rose Saturday, its light revealed the enormity of the tornado damage.

None what had been a convenience store on U.S. 54, a moving van lay on its side, spilling out a household of possessions — a dining room set and golf clubs lay in a heap.

Outside the gutted convenience store, 46-year-old Brad Stauner had slept a few hours by his pickup truck with his German shepherd, Drake.

He recalled what happened the night before. He was heading east on U.S. 54 on his way to Greensburg with his possessions packed under the camper shell.

Suddenly, the winds blew hard and hail broke his windshield. A sign said 1 mile to Greensburg.

Please see SURVIVORS, Page 8A



The tornado that struck Greensburg is backlit by a lightning strike Friday night.



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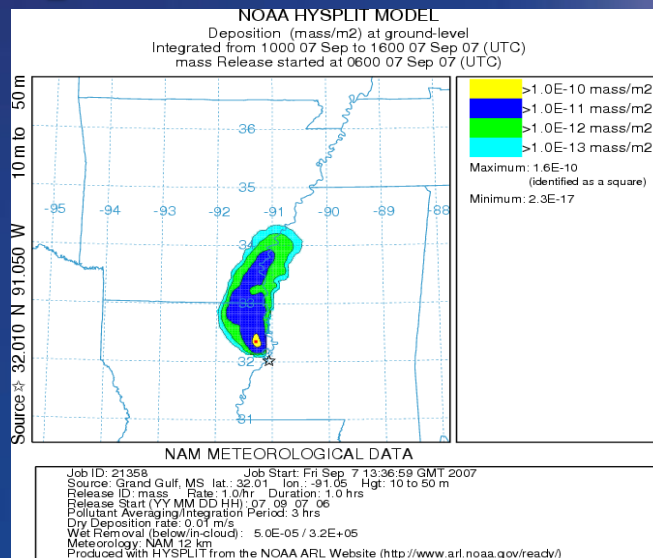
COMPLETE COVERAGE OF THE KENTUCKY DERBY, IN SPORTS





Types of Incidents that might require On-site support

- Nuclear power plant meltdowns
- Can provide deposition and concentration
- Rain and wind will affect impact



Three Mile Island





Types of Incidents that might require On-site support

- Possible support during smaller forest fires or large prescribed burns.
- Continue to have discussions with the local forest FMO's about deploying an IRMET with local Type III teams.
- IMET normally not dispatched with Type III teams...but weather is still important.





Exercises



- Helps build relationships for the real event
- Allows us to demonstrate our capabilities
- Helps us learn what the needs are





Process

- Needed to figure out what equipment we needed and how much it would cost.
- Purchase a trailer, generator?
- What about communications in areas with no cell coverage
- Overnight stays...Hotel?
- This was going to be costly, budget couldn't support this.



Started with:

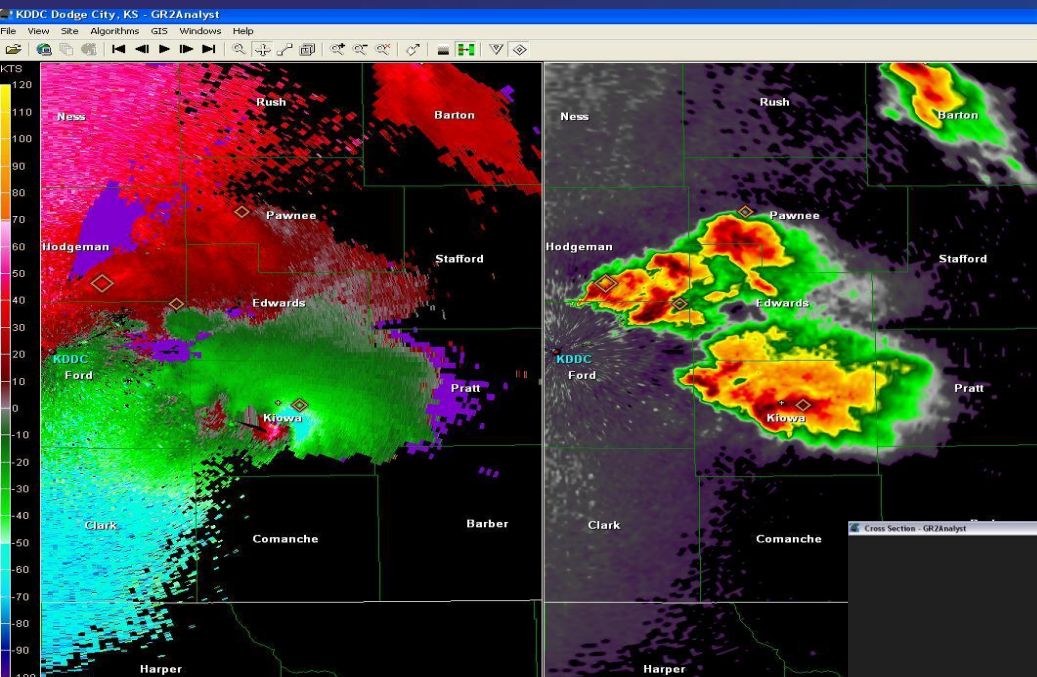


- Laptop with Wireless Internet capability
- Printer
- Dedicated cell phone
- Software including FXnet, GR2Analyst, Cameo, Hysplit and IEM Chat.
- Observing equipment (MK III Sensor Assembly). Data can be displayed on the laptop up to 400 feet away.
- Generator will be available.





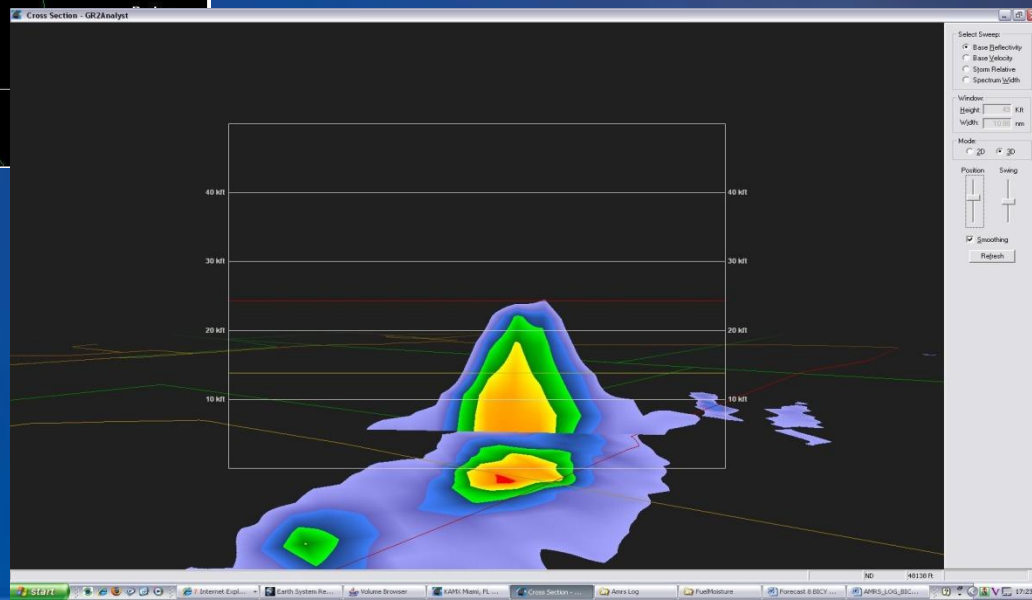
GR2Analyst Software



Smoke Plume in Montana

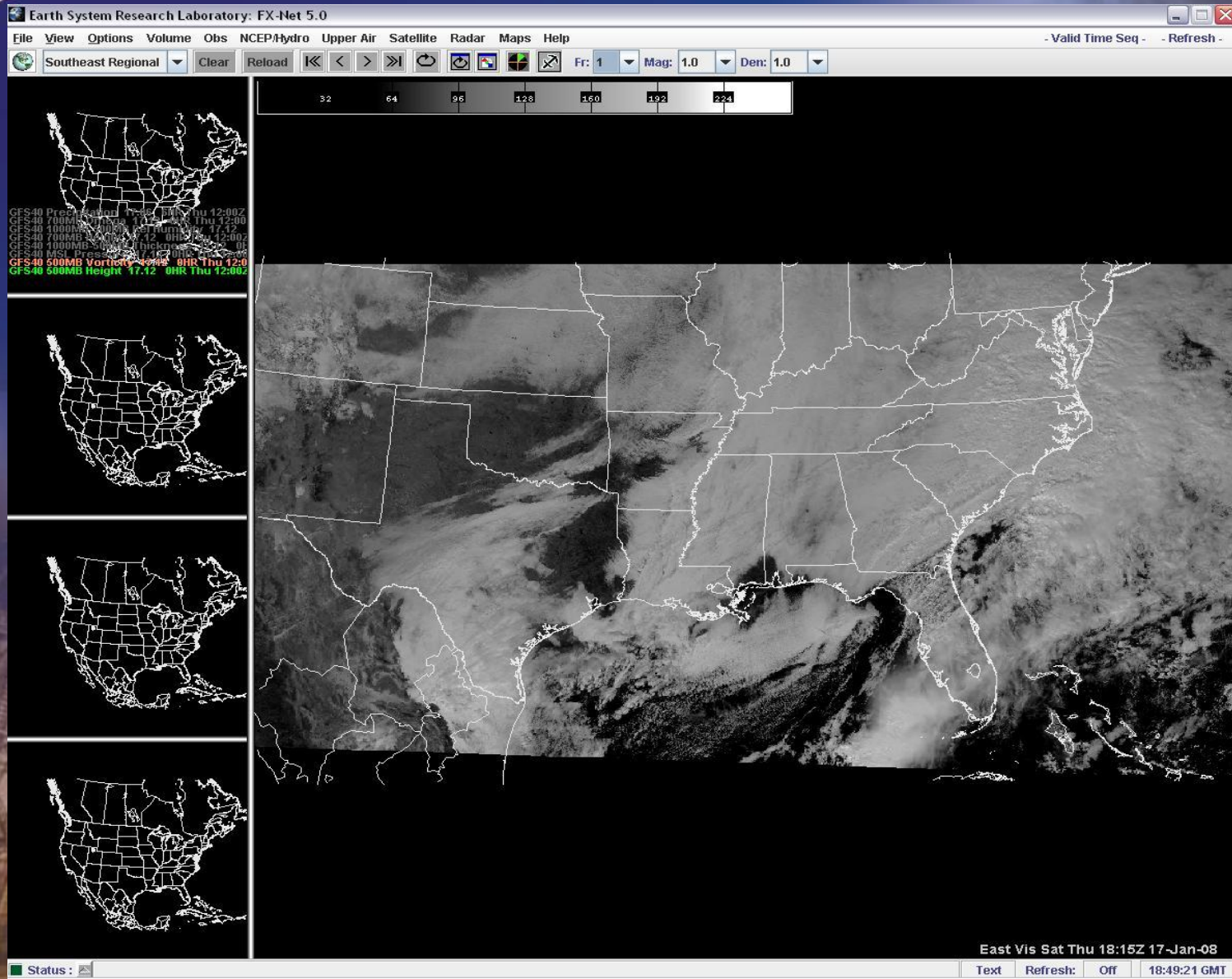


Greensburg Tornado





FX-Net Software





Observing Equipment

MK III Sensor Assembly





So how do we provide On-site support?

- **Don't always have cell or Wireless PC card coverage**
- **The key is to have reliable internet service no matter where we are**
- **This can not always be done by relying on the county to provide internet service or by depending solely on a wireless card**
- **To provide CWA wide support without restrictions and to keep costs low...we need something better and that's where the partnerships come in!**



**So...how do we keep costs low
and what do we work out of?**

Who do we partner with?



Newton County

Mobile Emergency Communication Operations (MECO)





MECO Uses

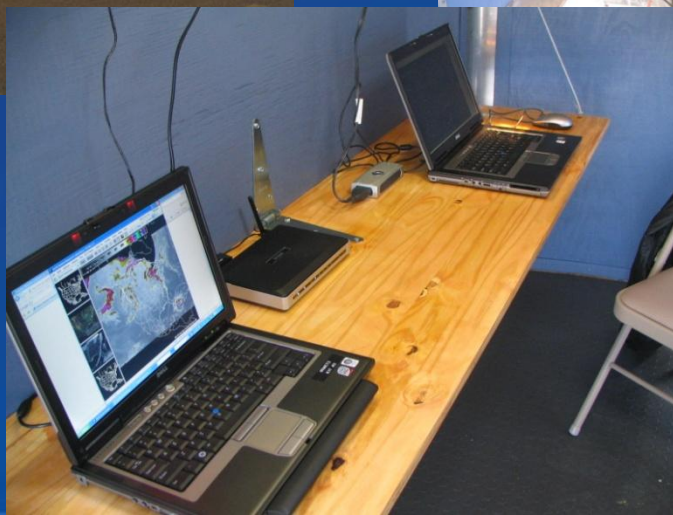


- **For extended events**
- **Will have the ability to have communications (voice and internet via satellite) anywhere in our County Warning Area**
- **Will be available on location 24/7**
- **Comes with sleeping, shower facilities**
- **Can also use for storm surveys of significant tornado events**
- **We have an agreement with the Newton County EM for the use of this (when available)**



Latest addition

WFO Jackson Emergency Response Trailer...





Emergency Response Trailer

- Used for exercises and shorter duration events(or when MECO is unavailable on longer duration events)
- Can be used as a staging point for tornado surveys.
- Wireless internet capability(Need cell coverage)
- Heated and Cooled
- Dedicated Generator
- Also can be used for sleeping.



On-site support in which NWS Jackson has participated



- **2 Terrorist/Hazmat exercises**
- **Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Plant exercise**
- **Hurricane Zora exercise**
- **2 years running...Sturgis Motorcycle Rally
– provided on-site support for large
gathering of people**
- **1 Day Support for Hattiesburg Train
Accident**
- **Naval Meridian air show in March 2008**
- **Madison County/Nissan plant tornado
exercise.**



Sturgis



- Complex setup
 - MECO setup adjacent to Oktibbeha County EM/911 comms center
 - Easy access to dispatchers and other officials
 - Newton County “mules” provided transportation around complex



Madison County Exercise

Nov 08



**F3 Tornado
hitting Nissan
plant**





Costs to the WFO



- **Observing equipment: Approx \$1200.00**
- **Laptop: Approx \$1800.00 (Can use existing one to keep costs lower)**
- **Wireless card: Approx \$50.00 per month**
- **Pay as you go cell phone.**
- **Trailer was donated by the ET Staff and was equipped at a relatively low cost.**
- **Costs are relatively low do to Partnerships.
e.g. Newton County MECO**



Current status

- **Currently we have approx 3 to 4 forecasters interested in providing this support.**
- **Approximately half of the office has had ICS 100-200 training.**
- **Everything is in place to provide support.**
- **More training exercises are needed.**
- **Have talked with most of the EM's and will be participating in several activities this year.**



Continuing Challenges

- **Getting the word out**
 - One on one with the EM.
 - LEPC talks
 - EM Workshops
 - MEMA Conference
- **EM doesn't think to ask for support**
 - Currently have procedures in place on what to do if there is a HAZMET incident.
 - Provide initial support, then refer incident calls to either the WCM or myself.





Upcoming activities

List is growing fast

- **Feb 12th - Lowndes County -Tornado exercise with Columbus Air Force base.**
- **May 12th – Hurricane Wendy – Statewide hurricane exercise.**
- **Late May – Covich County – Missing person exercise**
- **June 10th – Jefferson Davis County – Tornado table top exercise.**
- **Early Summer – Covington County - Chemical spill exercise**
- **August 18th – 20th Jones County – Williams Gas Pipeline Burst and Pinebelt Airport.**
- **September 9th – Grand Gulf Nuclear power plant exercise.**
- **A few others with no firm date as of this time...**



Future Endeavors

- Will attend training to teach ICS 100, 200 and 300.
- Continue to work with EM's on future activities.
- The key is to get in on the planning meetings, which sometimes are a year in advance.
- Will also continue to tailor our Response trailer to our needs.



Local On-Site Summary

- We can give data that may improve response to any situation
- Improve worker and public safety
- Improve decision making process
- Free to the customer





Questions?

